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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,641	03/17/2004	Bing-Jei Liao	HMOP0008USA	2640
27765	7590	06/29/2006	EXAMINER	
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION P.O. BOX 506 MERRIFIELD, VA 22116			NGUYEN, THANH NHAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/708,641	LIAO, BING-JEI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	(Nancy) Thanh-Nhan P. Nguyen	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/10/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 15-28 and 31-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 15-28 and 31-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to RCE dated 4/10/2006.

Claims 1-10, 15-28 and 31-34 are pending for the examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 15, 20, 21, 24, 27 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seshan et al (6,914,658) in view of Shiro (JP 07-318956).

Regarding claim 1, Seshan et al discloses (figs. 2 and 3) a liquid crystal display panel comprising:

- a first substrate
- a second substrate (205) having an active region (206)
- a sealant (211) positioned on the second substrate and surrounding the active region for adhering the second substrate to the first substrate
- a spacer wall (210) positioned on the second substrate and between the sealant and the active region, the spacer wall having at least one liquid crystal injected opening

- a liquid crystal layer positioned between the first substrate, the second substrate, and the sealant
- wherein the spacer wall supports the first substrate and prevents the liquid crystal from being contaminated by the sealant

Seshan et al lacks disclosure of a spacer wall having at least one spacer block positioned near the liquid crystal injected opening, and the spacer block prevents the sealant from contaminating the liquid crystal layer.

Shiro discloses (fig. 4; Abstract) a spacer block (7) positioned near the liquid crystal injected opening (12) preventing intrusion of the sealing material into a display region (or preventing the sealant from contaminating the liquid crystal layer). Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a spacer block positioned near the liquid crystal injected opening for the benefit of preventing intrusion of the sealing material into a display region (or preventing the sealant from contaminating the liquid crystal layer).

Claim 15 is met the discussion regarding claim 1 rejection above.

Claims 20 and 21 are met the discussion regarding claim 1 rejection above.

Regarding claims 24, 27 and 32, Seshan et al discloses wherein the spacer wall separates the liquid crystal layer from the sealant.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seshan et al in view of Shiro, and further in view of Jung et al (US 2005/0030468).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Seshan et al discloses (fig. 2) the second substrate further comprises a peripheral region (207) surrounding the active region. Seshan et al lacks disclosure of and a thin film layer located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall are located, wherein the thin film layer is an anti-reflective layer.

Jung et al discloses a thin film layer, which is anti-reflection film (not shown) formed on the peripheral area of the display panel for the benefit of preventing a reaction between the sealant and the liquid crystal material is formed on the sealant, [par. 0040]. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an anti-reflective layer located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall area located for the benefit of preventing a reaction between the sealant (or the spacer wall) and the liquid crystal material is formed on the sealant (or the spacer wall).

Claims 6 and 10 are met the discussion regarding claim 2 rejection above.

Claim 7 is met the discussion regarding claim 3 rejection above.

Claim 16 is met the discussion regarding claim 2 rejection above.

Claim 17 is met the discussion regarding claim 3 rejection above.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seshan et al in view of Shiro and Jung et al as discussed

above, and further in view of Nakahara et al (US 6,989,879) and Takako et al (US 2003/0058264).

Regarding claims 4 and 5, Seshan et al lacks disclosure of the thin film layer located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall are located, wherein the thin film layer is a first alignment layer, and the liquid crystal display panel further comprising a second alignment layer positioned on the first substrate and opposite to the first alignment layer, wherein the first alignment layer and the second alignment layer are both vertical alignment (VA) layers.

Nakahara et al discloses alignment films (13 and 23), on both first substrate (1) and second substrate (2), located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall are located, [fig. 5A], for the benefit of preventing a low twist domain occurred in liquid crystal display device, and therefore, the vicinity of the inner periphery of the sealant can also be effectively used as the region for displaying images, [Abstract]. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have alignment films located on the peripheral region where the sealant and the spacer wall are located for the benefit of preventing a low twist domain occurred in liquid crystal display device, and therefore, the vicinity of the inner periphery of the sealant can also be effectively used as the region for displaying images.

Even though Nakahara et al does not disclose the alignment films are vertical alignment, it was well known in the art to have vertical alignment films for aligning liquid crystal molecules vertically at initial state (when no voltage applied), as evidenced by

Takako et al, [fig. 11, elements '33' and '37'), and therefore does not patentably distinguish the invention.

Claim 8 is met the discussion regarding claim 4 rejection above.

Claim 9 is met the discussion regarding claim 5 rejection above.

Claim 18 is met the discussion regarding claim 4 rejection above.

Claim 19 is met the discussion regarding claim 5 rejection above.

Claims 25, 28 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seshan et al in view of Shiro, and further in view of Cheng et al (US 7,061,560).

Regarding claim 25, Seshan lacks disclosure of the thin film layer located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall are located, wherein a portion of the thin film layer is located on a portion of the active region and the thin film layer obstructs light so that the peripheral region and the portion of the active region are kept in a dark state.

Cheng et al discloses the thin film layer (26) located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall are located, wherein a portion of the thin film layer is located on a portion of the active region and the thin film layer obstructs light so that the peripheral region and the portion of the active region are kept in a dark state, (since element '26' is black matrix layer), [fig. 2], for the benefit of preventing light leakage, [col. 4, lines 9-11]. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the thin film layer located on the peripheral region where both the sealant and the spacer wall are located,

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wherein a portion of the thin film layer is located on a portion of the active region and the thin film layer obstructs light so that the peripheral region and the portion of the active region are kept in a dark state for the benefit of preventing light leakage.

Claim 28 is met the discussion regarding claim 25 rejection above.

Claim 33 is met the discussion regarding claim 25 rejection above.

Claims 22, 23, 26, 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seshan et al in view of Shiro, and further in view of Chung et al(US 2004/0012750).

Regarding claims 22 and 23, Seshan et al lacks disclosure of the spacer wall and the spacer block comprising inorganic materials or photoresist materials, such as silicon dioxide or silicon nitride.

However, spacer wall and/or spacer block can be made from silicon nitride as a common material used in the art, and for the benefit of being transparent in the visible part of the light spectrum, and being strong to maintain the uniform cell gap, as evidenced by Chung et al, [par. 0019]. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the spacer wall and the spacer block comprising silicon nitride for the benefit of being transparent in the visible part of the light spectrum, and being strong to maintain the uniform cell gap.

Claim 26 is met the discussion regarding claims 6 and 22 rejection above.

Claim 31 is met the discussion regarding claims 15 and 22 rejection above.

Claim 34 is met the discussion regarding claims 21 and 23 rejection above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10, 15-28 and 31-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

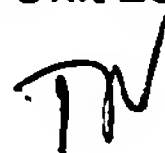
Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Nancy) Thanh-Nhan P. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1673. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 571-272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

(Nancy) Thanh-Nhan P Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2871




ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER